



Caterpillars and Butterflies

Centers for the Week

Fine-Motor Area: A student cuts construction paper scraps into a variety of shapes and puts them in a resealable plastic bag. He seals the bag and then gathers the bag in the middle. After he twists a pipe cleaner around the gathered section, he bends the pipe cleaner so it resembles antennae.

Literacy Center: Provide 26 butterfly cutouts, each labeled with a different letter. Place a length of tape on the floor. A youngster places the butterflies on the tape line in alphabetical order, using an alphabet strip as a guide if needed.

Math Center: Place at the center a supply of jumbo craft sticks, pom-poms, and glue. Make sample caterpillars by gluing pom-poms to craft sticks in simple patterns. A student glues pom-poms to a craft stick to copy a caterpillar's pattern.

Play Dough Center: Place an oversize laminated leaf cutout at the center. Provide several different colors of play dough and butterfly-shaped cookie cutters. A student rolls play dough into caterpillar shapes and presses cookie cutters into flattened play dough to make butterflies. Then he places his creations on the leaf.

Dramatic Play: In this entomology center, provide white dress shirts for lab coats; plastic butterflies and caterpillars; plastic tweezers; magnifying glasses; bug boxes; notepads and writing tools; and insect-related books, magazines, and pictures. A student pretends to be an entomologist studying caterpillars and butterflies.

Group Time

Literature

Monday

Give each child a piece of pipe cleaner (caterpillar) and a paper leaf with a hole in it. Give positional directions, such as "Make your caterpillar crawl through the leaf." For an added challenge, give two positional directions, such as "Make your caterpillar crawl *under* the leaf and then *between* your feet!" **Positional words, following directions**



Read aloud *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. In this story, a ravenous caterpillar eats its way through a huge amount of food and then encases itself in a chrysalis, from which it emerges as a beautiful butterfly!

Tuesday

Prepare a green circle so it resembles a caterpillar's head and place it on the floor. Give each child a die-cut letter C. Lead students in reciting the chant shown. Then have a child place his letter next to the caterpillar's head and say /k/. Have each child repeat the process. **Letter sounds**

Caterpillar, caterpillar starts with C.
Can you make its sound with me?
/k/, /k/, /k/, /k/, caterpillar!



Reread yesterday's story; then have students name other foods the caterpillar might eat. Have each student draw and cut out a food and then attach it to a mural with a caterpillar cutout that resembles the very hungry caterpillar.

Wednesday

Prepare a class supply of different-colored butterflies. During the activity, start and stop a recording of soothing music. When the music plays, students gently glide their butterflies through the air. When the music stops, each child lands his butterfly on an object in the room that matches the color of the butterfly. **Color matching**

Read aloud *I'm a Caterpillar* by Jean Marzollo. This book is about a little caterpillar going through the stages of metamorphosis. The author and illustrator beautifully capture the transformation through simple descriptions.

Thursday

Place a large butterfly cutout and a large caterpillar cutout on the floor. Collect a class supply of items that begin with /b/ and /k/ and store the items in a pillowcase. A student picks an item from the pillowcase and says its name. If the name begins with /b/, he places it on the butterfly. If it begins with the /k/ sound, he places it on the caterpillar. **Beginning sounds, sorting**

Revisit yesterday's story. Review with students the metamorphosis cycle on the last page of the book. Then give each child a paper plate that has been divided into fourths. Have youngsters glue pasta shapes to the plate to make a representation of the cycle.

Friday

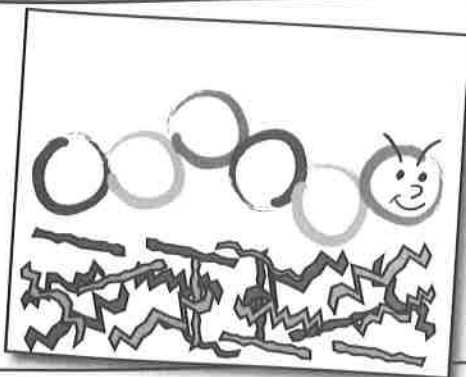
After discussing butterfly metamorphosis with youngsters, encourage each student to curl up in a little ball so he resembles an egg. Then have him pretend to hatch into a caterpillar and munch on leaves. Next, encourage him to mimic a chrysalis hanging from a leaf. Finally, invite him to pick up colorful scarves and "fly" around the room to show he is a butterfly. **Role-playing, investigating living things**

Read aloud *Waiting for Wings* by Lois Ehlert. Then have youngsters use a straw to drink a cup of fruit juice just like the butterflies in the book use their proboscis to drink nectar.

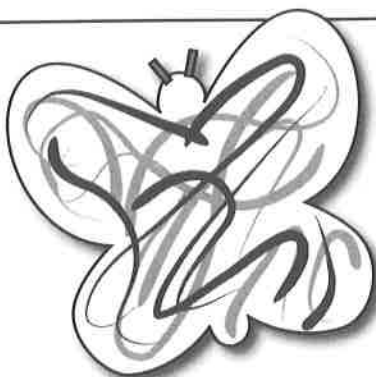
Art/Gross-Motor Skills

Caterpillar Circles

(See directions on page 164.)



Gross Motor: Make four flower cutouts in different colors and mount them on a wall. A group of students line up several feet from each flower. The first child in each team is given a butterfly cutout that matches his team's flower. He "flies" his butterfly to the flower, touches the butterfly to the flower, and then flies the butterfly back to his team, handing it off to the next student.



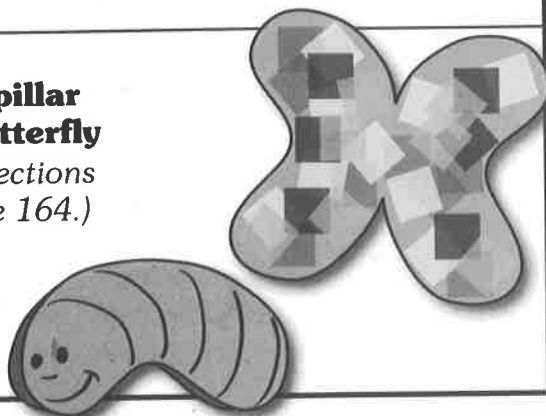
Butterfly Drizzles

(See directions on page 164.)

Gross Motor: Review the /k/ sound in *caterpillar* and the /b/ sound in *butterfly* before playing this game. Then call out a word. If the word begins with the /k/ sound, students wiggle around on the floor as if they were caterpillars. If the word begins with the /b/ sound, they flap their arms as if they were butterflies.

Caterpillar and Butterfly

(See directions on page 164.)



Songs and Such for the Week

My Butterfly

(tune: "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean")

My butterfly flies by the flower.
My butterfly flies by the tree.
My butterfly flies by the bushes.
I wish it would fly back to me.
Fly back, fly back,
I wish it would fly back to me, to me.
Fly back, fly back,
I wish it would fly back to me.

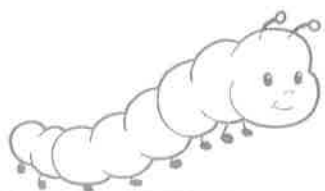
Creeping

Creeping, creeping, creeping, crawl.
I can be fuzzy or not at all.
Creeping, creeping, creeping, crawl.
Sometimes I can be a ball.
Creeping, creeping, creeping, crawl
Inch by inch along the wall.

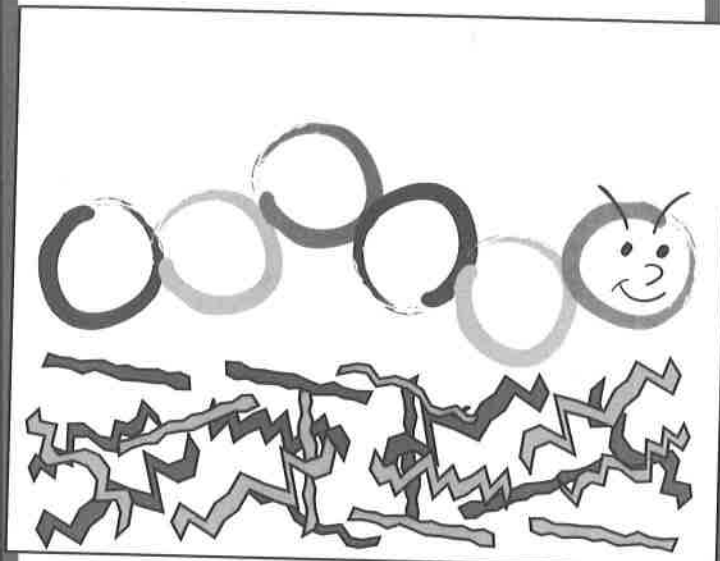
The Little Caterpillar

(tune: "The Itsy-Bitsy Spider")

The little caterpillar
Curled up under a leaf.
It formed a chrysalis
And then it fell asleep.
It grew and it changed and the days flew
right on by.
When it popped out of the chrysalis,
It was a butterfly!



Art Activities



Caterpillar Circles

Dip an end of a cardboard tube into a container of paint and then press it on a sheet of paper several times to make a caterpillar. Use markers or crayons to add facial details and antennae to the caterpillar. Then glue green crinkle paper below the caterpillar so it looks as though the caterpillar is crawling through the grass.

Butterfly Drizzles

Tint several containers of glue different colors. To make a butterfly, dip the end of a spoon into the glue and then drizzle the glue onto a construction paper butterfly cutout. Repeat the process with the remaining colors until a desired effect is achieved. Let the project dry thoroughly; then attach pipe cleaner pieces to the butterfly to make antennae.



Caterpillar and Butterfly

On a folded sheet of construction paper, draw a caterpillar shape similar to the one shown. Draw a face on the caterpillar. Then cut out the caterpillar, leaving a section of the fold intact. Next, unfold the caterpillar to reveal a butterfly shape. Glue pieces of torn tissue paper to the resulting butterfly.

